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Rural District of Aysgarth.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1958



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Aysgarth Rural District Council

Members of the Council

	Chairman - Councillor J. Sunter
	Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. A. M. Mason
Abbotside High	R. Balderston, Esq. J. Sunter, Esq., (Chairman)
Abbotside Low	J. R. Hopper, Esq.
Askrigg	J. Trotter, Esq. R. H. Widdows, Esq.
Aysgarth	T. W. Cherry, Esq.
Bainbridge	R. F. Kettlewell, Esq. W. Lambert, Esq. R. Mason, Esq.
Bishopdale & Newbiggin	J. Chapman, Esq.
West Burton	J. Hammond, Esq.
Carperby-cum- Thoresby	Mrs. J. A. A. Johnson R. W. Foster, Esq.
Hawes	G. H. Ashton, Esq. G. Dinsdale, Esq. C. W. Layberry, Esq. Mrs. A. M. Mason, (Vice-Chairman) J. W. Metcalfe, Esq.
Thoralby	W. E. Metcalfe, Esq.
Thornton Rust	T. Metcalfe, Esq.

Officers

Clerk of the Council	John J. Willan
Medical Officer of Health	John L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Area Health Office, Wensleydale County Modern School, Leyburn. Tel. No: Leyburn 2244 (temporary line)
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor	Kenneth J. Jolley, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Aysgarth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1958.

With an increase in the birth-rate and a decrease in the death-rate, the adjusted rates do not differ greatly from those for England and Wales and do not call for any special comment.

There was a low incidence of infectious disease and no new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Once again the problems connected with the field of environmental hygiene are the major concern of the council. The Fossdale water supply scheme made hardly any progress for various reasons. At the time of writing this report there seems no possibility that this scheme will be completed before 1961. The scheme demands urgent attention so that several polluted water supplies which are in use and which constitute a grave danger to public health can be eliminated.

The position regarding sewerage and sewage disposal in the district continues to give cause for alarm. Conditions are particularly bad in Askrigg, Thoraby and West Burton and schemes for these villages should be undertaken without delay.

Finally I should like to express my appreciation to the Members and Officials of the Council for their help and cooperation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant



(John L. Cotton)
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) General Statistics

Area (in acres)	81,032
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population Mid 1958)	3,350
Net decrease of Resident population (mid 1957 - mid 1958)	40
Population (1931 census)	4,257
Population (1951 census)	3,607
Number of inhabited houses (1951)	1,209
Number of inhabited houses (1958)	1,249
Rateable Value of district (April 1958)	£ 23,483
Product of a penny rate	£ 87-13-0

(b) Vital Statistics

	Aysgarth R.D.	England & Wales
Live births	46	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	13.7	16.4
Still-births	1	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births	21.3	21.4
Total live and still-births	47	
Infant deaths	2	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	43.5	22.6
" " " " " " " Legitimate	45.5	
" " " " " " " Illegitimate	0	
Neo Natal " " " " " " " ...	21.7	16.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.35	
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death

Tuberculosis	
Other Infectious and parasitic diseases	
Malignant diseases	
Cardia Vascular	
Pneumonia	
Other respiratory diseases	
Digestive diseases	
Congenital Malformations	
Other diseases	
Vehicle Accidents	
Other Accidents	
Suicide	
Total deaths (all causes)	

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0	0	0
0	0	0
2	4	6
15	14	29
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
0	0	0
2	0	2
1	0	1
1	2	3
0	0	0
22	21	43

Death rate per 1,000 population - 12.8
 Death rate for England and Wales - 11.7

POPULATION TREND

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Estimated mid-year population	3350	3390	3410	3430	3450	3474	3492
Birth-Rate	13.7	11.8	15.8	18.4	12.2	22.5	17.5
Death-Rate	12.8	16.8	17.6	16.3	19.1	15.0	14.9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises, persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The details of staff are given at the beginning of the report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Bainbridge.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Local Hospital accommodation is provided in Northallerton by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at Lancaster and Bradford hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOMES

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Mid-wifery service is under the general direction of the County Council, with the day-to-day administration being dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee. Three district nurse/midwives operate in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The equivalent of 0.25 whole time Domestic Helps was employed in the District during the year and a total of 576 hours were worked. Three households were assisted.

SECTION C

WATER SUPPLIES

The scheme to utilise the Fossdale springs to supply High Shaw, Simonstone, Hardraw, Sedbusk and Appersett and also to augment the Hawes Supply made hardly any progress during the year. Whilst the scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and by the County Council it is unlikely that the scheme will be in operation before 1961. I can only reiterate the remarks of my predecessor that the existing supplies in the upper dale constitute a grave danger to public health. I should add that the Aysgarth Rural District Council are anxious to bring in this new scheme to provide a safe supply of water with the minimum of delay.

Details about the supply position during the year are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

SECTION D

HOUSING

I should like the Council to consider building a number of bungalows for old people. There is a need for this type of accommodation and the demand is certain to increase as more people live to reach old age than ever before. In support of this suggestion, some old people are living in unfit houses and they should be given the opportunity of moving to good housing conditions with modern amenities.

Further details regarding housing are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

SECTION E

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Details of this work and of meat inspection are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases notified

Whooping cough
Measles
Erysipelas

Males	Females	Total
11	10	21
7	9	16
1	1	2

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following figures show the immunisation rate of the child population in the area administered by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Immunised</u>
0 - 4 yrs	51%
5 - 14 yrs	91%

The immunisation rate for the Aysgarth Rural District is considerably higher than the above figures indicate.

Small-pox Vaccination

70% of the children born during the year were notified as having been vaccinated against small pox (45% in 1957).

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

A large proportion of your Medical Officer's time during the year was spent on poliomyelitis vaccination. By the end of the year 5408 children aged under 15 years in the Wensleydale Local Health Area (of which the Aysgarth Rural District is part) had been vaccinated with two injections. This figure represents some 66% of all the children under 15 years of age compared with 31% in 1957.

In addition some 508 older persons had also received two injections and 2282 children and adults had received a third injection.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 - +	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There were 14 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1958. This gives a rate of 4.78 cases of tuberculosis per 1000 population as compared with 6.50 in 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A total of 1,234 inspections and visits were made during the year, for this purpose it was necessary to travel 7,974 miles, an average of 6.4 miles per visit or inspection. Details are found in the following table.

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Complied with	Statutory Notices	Complied with
Council Works	264	Nil	-	-	-
Housing	80	16	16	1	1
Public Health Acts	185	-	-	Nil	Nil
Building Byelaws	144	-	-	-	-
Improvement Grants	91	-	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses (for the purpose of meat inspection)	189	-	-	-	-
Water Supply	184	-	-	-	-
Food Premises	44	3	2	-	-
Petroleum Regulations	15	-	-	-	-
Rodent Control	38	2	2	-	-
Factories Act	6	-	-	-	-

WATER SUPPLY

The following is a table showing rainfall and sunshine as measured at Hawes.

Month	Rainfall in inches		Sunshine in hours		Increase +) Decrease -) for 1958	
	1957	1958	1957	1958	Rainfall	Sunshine
Jan.	8.21	5.36	24.2	42.0	- 2.85	+ 17.8
Feb.	4.18	7.91	75.6	58.6	+ 3.73	- 17.0
Mar.	4.35	1.54	75.0	114.0	- 2.81	+ 39.0
Apr.	0.49	1.45	142.9	139.5	+ 0.96	- 3.4
May.	2.46	5.55	164.5	162.8	+ 3.09	- 1.7
June	1.23	3.72	251.5	113.8	+ 2.49	-137.7
July	5.46	4.31	114.8	162.0	- 1.15	+ 47.2
Aug.	8.52	4.67	110.0	121.9	- 3.85	+ 11.9
Sep.	5.40	5.42	117.3	102.4	+ 0.02	- 14.9
Oct.	7.45	5.62	97.7	100.7	- 1.83	+ 3.0
Nov.	1.94	1.11	51.7	61.8	- 0.83	+ 10.1
Dec.	5.35	4.84	40.1	24.5	- 0.51	- 15.6
Total:	55.04	51.50	1265.3	1204.0	- 3.54	- 61.3

It will be seen from the table that although we had less rain than in 1957 - 6.5% less - we also had less sunshine - almost 5% less. The large difference in the month of June, when we had 138 hours less sunshine than in 1957 is accounted for by the fact that the sunshine in June of 1957 was an all time record and more than twice the average.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

34 samples of water were examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service, the results are as follows :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
West Burton	1	3
Hawes	4	4
Hardraw	-	2
Carperby	1	2
Newbiggin & Thoraby	1	1
Addleborough Regional Supply	2	1
Askrigg	1	-
Woodhall	1	-
Burtersett	-	1
Private Supplies	3	5
Nappa Scar	1	-
Totals:	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>

Total Number of houses in the area	1249
Total Number of houses supplied from Council Mains	1024
Percentage of houses supplied from Council Mains	82%

Once again most of the samples have been classified as unsatisfactory due to the presence of coliform organisms of faecal origin. The samples submitted after rainfall indicate that a good deal of surface water finds its way into the springs.

Fossdale Scheme

Very little progress was made with this scheme during the year and at the time of writing this report it seems that we are in just about the same position as we were in September 1958. By that time we had agreed the sites and areas of land required for Intake Works, Reservoir and Break Pressure Tank. The reports of the District Valuer had been received and agreement had been reached in respect of two of the three intakes, the reservoir site and the Break Pressure Tank. The necessary Planning Consents had been obtained and working plans of the reservoir etc. prepared. It seemed that at last the Council could apply for consent to raise the loan required and at the same time ask for a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the intake which could not be negotiated.

At the end of September the Council received a summary of the report of Mr. A. R. Vail on the water survey of the North and East Ridings. Whilst Mr. Vail proposed to use the Fossdale springs as part of the Dales water scheme his proposals differed from the scheme agreed in principle by the Council in several respects, most important of which was the size of the reservoir which was to be 250,000 gallons instead of 50,000 gallons and at a different altitude. Other differences included Mr. Vail's proposal to abstract 100,000 gallons per day whereas the Council had planned to take 65,000 gallons.

Shortly after receiving the Vail Report the Council were asked by the Ministry to reconsider the Fossdale scheme in the light of the Report, this they did and it has meant amongst other things, re-siting the reservoir, altering sizes and routes of mains etc, in consequence much of the work which had been done has been wasted.

There were some points in the Vail Report that the Council did not feel happy about and it was arranged to send the Council's Public Health Inspector and the Consultant Engineer to meet Mr. Vail early in 1959.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat Inspection

It is estimated that 60% of the meat consumed in the Rural District is slaughtered in the four private slaughterhouses in the district sited in Hawes, Gayle, Aysgarth and Askrigg.

The butchers have continued to observe their obligation to notify the slaughter of food animals other than sheep and it has been possible to inspect all animals notified. I have endeavoured to cooperate with the butchers and they have seldom been inconvenienced by being unable to take meat from the slaughterhouse because it had not been inspected.

The total number of animals inspected was 453 compared with 485 last year and the number of visits to inspect was 189 against 191. It will be seen that the position is little different from last year.

Unfit meat is still disposed of by burial on the Councils Refuse Tips. Whilst this method of disposal leaves much to be desired, at the moment no alternative can be offered.

The following table gives details of the food animals killed and the amount found to be unfit.

	Bull- ocks	Heif- ers	Total cattle (exclu- ding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	64	41	105	15	Nil	119	109
Number inspected	64	41	105	15	Nil	119	109
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CISTICERCI</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Percentage	-	-	-	-	-	.84	1.83
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	5	5	10	1	-	-	1
Percentage	7.81	12.2	9.52	6.66	-	-	0.92
Total Percentage	7.81	12.2	9.52	6.66	-	.84	2.75
<u>TUBERCULOSIS only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	-	1	-	-	-	5
Percentage	1.56	-	0.95	-	-	-	4.6
Total Percentage	1.56	-	0.95	-	-	-	4.6
<u>CYSTERCERCOSIS</u>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Other Foods

A total weight of other foods, including tinned foods, amounting to 19 lbs. 8 ozs. has been found upon inspection to be unfit for consumption.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

There are 74 premises in the district which come within the scope of the above regulations, they are as follows :-

Cafes	6
Public Houses	18
Confectioners	5
Grocers	22
Butchers	8
School Canteens	7
Fish and Chip Shops	1
Fishmongers	2
Cheese Factory	1
Hotels	3

It will be seen from the table of inspections that 44 visits were made to this type of premises, most of the premises have either been made to comply with the structural requirements of the regulations or the occupiers have undertaken to do so in the near future. One plan was approved during the year for improvements to Food Premises.

SEWERAGE

Table showing number of houses connected to Public Sewers

Parish	No. of Houses	Population Served
Abbotside High	51	141
Abbotside Low	-	-
Askrigg	109	285
Aysgarth	54	149
Bainbridge	96	265
Bishopdale	-	-
Burton-cum-Walden	-	-
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	59	163
Hawes	354	985
Newbiggin & Thoralby	-	-
Thornton Rust	-	-
	723	1988

With a total population of approximately 3,350 the percentage for which sewerage is provided is 58%.

BURTERSETT

During the year plans were prepared and a tender accepted for sewage disposal works at Burtersett comprising upward flow sedimentation tank, dosing chamber, distributor and percolating filter, and sludge drying beds. The contractor promised to make a start early in 1959.

Certain other villages, notably Askrigg, West Burton and Thoralby are badly in need of Sewerage Systems and Sewage Disposal Works.

The effluent from the Hawes and Gayle Works continues to be most unsatisfactory.

HOUSING

The Housing Rent & Repairs Act 1954, Section 1 (Housing Proposals)

The following action was taken during the year to implement the Council's Housing Proposals made under the above act in 1955.

Part 3 (Action in the first five years)

The Council undertook to deal with 48 unfit houses in the first five years. This number was made up of 7 houses already in a declared Clearance Area and 26 houses occurring in groups of 2 or more and therefore likely to be dealt with as Clearance Areas. The remaining 15 were individual unfit houses.

At the beginning of the year there remained 20 houses likely to be included in Clearance Areas. Of these houses 2 have been demolished by the owners during the year and the Council declared a Clearance Area in Aysgarth including a further 2 leaving 16 at the end of the year.

Of the 15 Individual Unfit Houses which the Council undertook to deal with, 12 had been either made fit, closed or demolished by the beginning of this year. A further 4 have been dealt with this year, 2 being made fit by the owners with the assistance of a grant, 2 demolished by the owners.

Housing Act 1957, Improvement Grants

The Council offered 5 grants during the year totaling £ 773, 3 grants in respect of improvements and 2 in respect of the division of a house into two.

New Council Houses

During the year the Council had no new housing works in progress.

Housing Survey

The following table shows the progress of the Rural Housing Survey.

Parish	Not Inspected	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 5
Abbotside High	12	1	24	36	11
Abbotside Low	4	7	10	12	5
Askrigg	8	11	57	69	12
Aysgarth	5	17	23	24	6
Bainbridge	6	23	54	60	16
Bishopdale	9	-	2	1	-
Burton-cum-Walden	29	12	35	39	2
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	3	17	17	34	3
Hawes	11	111	133	123	45
Newbiggin	2	2	9	9	2
Thoralby	7	9	16	19	3
Thornton Rust	-	6	18	9	1
TOTALS:	96	216	398	435	106
Totals for 1957	101	205	390	446	110

Overcrowding

(a) Total number of houses overcrowded at the beginning of the year	2
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(c) Number of new cases of overcrowding	Nil
(d) Number of cases relieved.	Nil
(e) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

The above table is based upon a survey carried out many years ago, which has been brought up to date year by year from information available which may not have been complete.

HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS
Houses built by Private Enterprise

The table below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the various parishes.

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Hawes	2	-
Askrigg	5	-
Thornton Rust	1	-
Aysgarth	3	1
Low Abbotside	2	-
TOTAL:	13	1

HOUSES BUILT BY AYSGARTH R.D.C.

Parish	To 31/12/58	Under Construction
Hawes	44	-
Bainbridge	8	-
Askrigg	4	-
Carperby	6	-
Aysgarth	4	-
West Burton	2	-
TOTAL:	68	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, BUILDING BYELAWS

46 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the following table.

Parish	New Houses	Alter-ations to dwell-ings	Alter-ations to food Premises	Garages & Sheds	Cow-Sheds & Dair-ies	Alter-ations to buil-dings other than dw-ellings	Total
Hawes	-	7	1	6	-	-	14
Bainbridge	-	2	-	2	-	2	6
Askrigg	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
Carperby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aysgarth	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Thornton Rust	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
High Abbotside	-	2	-	1	2	1	6
Low "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Burton	1	2	-	2	2	-	7
Thoralby	-	3	-	-	-	2	5
TOTALS:	3	21	1	12	4	5	46

RODENT CONTROL

38 visits were made during the year to Council and other properties.

The Council's sewers were baited and poisoned twice during the year. The sewage works and tips were dealt with as infestations occurred. The Council continue to supply rat poison, free of charge, to householders for use on domestic premises.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	Powered	Non-Powered	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by District Council	-	1	1	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 applied	26	-	26	4	-	-

